

**School & Library Network  
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
October 4, 2000**

Members Present: Phil Lindley, Gary Nichols, Joanne Steneck, Greg Scott, Barry Crommett, Barry McCrum, Bill Black, Reginald Palmer

Members Absent: John Vedral

1. Minutes. Minutes from the August 30, 2000 meeting were approved.
2. Goals. Kathy Schulz reported of the progress Go Online with Americorps @ Libraries and School Project.
3. Task Force on the Maine Learning and Technology Endowment. Greg Scott and Joanne Steneck reported on the first two meetings of the Task Force. Task Force members requested that close coordination occur with activities of MSLN.
4. Issues Related to Implementing The Maine Telecommunications Education Access Fund.
  - a. RFP – Verizon Maine and the University of Maine were selected to provide the network and Internet services. Contracts will be entered into in the next few weeks.
  - b. Education Campaign – Linda Lord distributed a draft letter of agency to be sent in by schools and libraries that wish to participate in the blanket 471. It was agreed that the cover letter to the form should emphasize the importance of returning the form if a site wants to continue current service. Verizon agreed to provide assistance with follow-up contact, if necessary. The letter will also explain that sites that want a different service will be required to file their own forms 470 and 471. A copy of the Federal 471 will be filed with the PUC to obtain State E-Rate. State E-Rate will be available up to the T-1 subsidy level for sites choosing other services. There was discussion about sites that become eligible for T1's after June 2001. It was generally agreed that sites that become eligible for T1's should receive the upgrade. It was unclear whether the Federal E-Rate would lock in a particular service for the entire year. It was agreed that Linda would discuss with Edna about whether changes are possible. If this is not possible, the Board will need to decide whether to recommend that state funds pay the difference until the next Federal E-Rate cycle.
  - c. Additional Libraries – It was agreed these libraries would be contacted to find out if they are eligible for E-Rate; some may be, such as the county law libraries.

- d. POTS for Libraries – There was continued discussion about the need to continue a State subsidy for POTs for libraries. Currently, MSLN subsidizes on average \$23 per line (libraries pay \$12 per line, up to two lines). After Federal E-Rate is applied, many libraries will not have much in excess of \$12 to pay. Gary passed out a spreadsheet. There was considerable discussion, but no decision. Gary will redistribute the spreadsheet with corrections by e-mail to Board members. We will seek to clarify this issue before the letter goes to libraries about applying for Federal E-Rate.
- e. “Innovative and Technologically Advanced” – A subcommittee was set up that will make a recommendation at the next meeting. It was agreed that this element of the Project could be implemented in the Spring of 2001. Members of the subcommittee are Phil, Reggie, Linda, Gary, Art, Scott Thibeau (from Com Tel), and Bill Black.

The next meeting will be Tuesday November 14 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission.